



Intelligence Information Cable

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PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

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CITE TDCS DB-315/00520-69

DIST 7 FEBRUARY 1969

COUNTRY WEST GERMANY/EAST GERMANY/USSR

DOI EARLY FEBRUARY 1969

SUBJECT FINAL DECISION TO RELEASE THE SOVIET SPY HEINZ FELFE

ACC GERMANY, BONN (5 FEBRUARY 1969) FIELD NO. FGN-3090
SOURCE PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 6: A WEST GERMAN OFFICIAL WHO HAD ACCESS TO THE INFORMATION. THE OFFICIAL HAS SUPPLIED ACCURATE INFORMATION IN THE PAST, OFTEN IN SUPPORT OF GERMAN POLICY INTERESTS AS HE CONCEIVES THEM.
PARAGRAPHS 3, 4 AND 5: A SENIOR FUNCTIONARY OF THE WEST GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SPD) WHO HAS REPORTED RELIABLY IN THE PAST. HE OBTAINED THE INFORMATION FROM A WELL-PLACED OFFICIAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS.

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1. (FIELD COMMENT: ACCORDING TO REPORTING IN LATE DECEMBER 1968 THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT DECIDED IN PRINCIPLE TO NEGOTIATE THE RELEASE OF THE CONVICTED SPY HEINZ FELFE. ACCORDING TO REPORTING IN JANUARY 1969, NEGOTIATIONS IN THE PRISONER EXCHANGE

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2E
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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IN 89074

TDCS DB-315/00520-69

PAGE 2 OF 4 PAGES

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CHANNEL IN EAST GERMANY HAD BEEN CONCLUDED AND HAD RESULTED IN AN AGREEMENT FOR THE RELEASE OF FELFE IN EXCHANGE FOR WEST GERMAN STUDENTS IMPRISONED IN THE USSR AND WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS IMPRISONED IN EAST GERMANY. THE AGREEMENT WAS AWAITING THE APPROVAL OF CHANCELLOR KIESINGER WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN VERY HESITANT ABOUT ACCEDING TO SOVIET AND EAST GERMAN PRESSURES FOR FELFE'S RELEASE. (TDCSDB-315/00004-69 AND TDCSDB-315/00165-69) (SEE OGA-844 AND EGN-3959.)

2. ON 4 FEBRUARY 1969 CHANCELLOR WURT GEORG KIESINGER APPROVED THE RELEASE OF HEINZ FELFE TO THE EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES. IN RETURN THE EAST GERMANS WILL RELEASE 18 IMPRISONED AGENTS OF THE GERMAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (BND) AND THREE STUDENTS IMPRISONED IN THE USSR, TWO OF WHOM ARE NEUMANN AND SONNTAG. THE EAST GERMANS ALSO AGREED TO A WEST GERMAN REQUEST THAT AFTER FELFE IS TURNED OVER, THE PROGRAM OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION BETWEEN THE EAST GERMANS AND THE WEST WILL AGAIN BE STARTED.

3. ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL IN THE ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTRY, AS OF 30 JANUARY 1969, THE FELFE RELEASE AGREEMENT CALLED FOR A SUM OF 80,000 MARKS (\$20,000), TO BE PAID THE EAST GERMANS FOR EACH OF THE WEST GERMAN AGENTS WHOM THE EAST GERMANS RELEASE. (SOURCE COMMENT: THIS IS DOUBLE THE PRICE PAID IN PREVIOUS PRISONER EXCHANGES.) THE WEST GERMANS ARE

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TDCS DB-315/00520-69

PAGE 3 OF 4 PAGES

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TO BE RELEASED ONE DAY BEFORE FELFE IS RELEASED,
AND BOTH SIDES HAVE PREPARED PRESS NOTICES LIMITED TO REPORTING
THE RELEASE OF FELFE.

4. REGARDING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN FELFE'S RELEASE AND THE
RESUMPTION OF OTHER TYPES OF EXCHANGE OF PERSONS, THE EAST
GERMANS AGREED TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR ABOUT THE
FURTHER EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS. THEY HAVE IN MIND NEGOTIATIONS
ABOUT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME NUMBER OF PRISONERS AS WAS DIS-
CUSSED IN 1968 (ABOUT 800). DESPITE FUNDAMENTAL RESERVATIONS
OF A POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL NATURE AGAINST FAMILY REUNI-
FICATION EXCHANGES, THE EAST GERMANS STATED THAT THEY WOULD
AGAIN BE READY TO START UP THESE EXCHANGES AND PARTICULARLY TO
SETTLE A NUMBER OF CASES WHICH HAD BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION FOR
SOME TIME. THE EAST GERMANS ALSO STATED THEY WERE PREPARED TO
BEGIN SEPARATE MOVES FOR THE RELEASE OF CHILDREN IF THE WESTERN
SIDE WOULD PAY LARGER SUMS FOR THEIR SUPPORT. BERLIN CHILDREN
WOULD BE RELEASED FIRST FOLLOWED BY THE RELEASE TO THE WEST OF
CHILDREN OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

5. THESE ARRANGEMENTS WERE REACHED IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN
THE BERLIN PRISONER EXCHANGE LAWYERS, WEST BERLIN LAWYER JUERGEN
STANGE AND EAST GERMAN LAWYER WOLFGANG VOGEL, AND WERE THEN FURTHER

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7. FIELD DISSEM: EMBASSY BONN, USCONSUL BONN, USCONSUL STANG.
EXEMPTIONS ARE BEING HANDLED BY VOGEL AND STANG.
NUMBER OF FRENCH NATIONALS NOW IMPRISONED IN EAST GERMANY. THE
AN EXCHANGE OF THREE EAST GERMANS IMPRISONED IN FRANCE FOR A LIKE
PLACE BETWEEN FRANCE AND EAST GERMANY. THE FRENCH HAVE AGREED
8. PRISONER EXCHANGE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN TAKING
PROMISE TO RESUME THE RELEASES DESCRIBED ABOVE).
IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE EAST GERMANS DID NOT GIVE A BINDING
AND ALL-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTER HERBERT WEHNER. (SOURCE COMMENT:
DISCUSSED IN A CONVERSATION IN BONN IN LATE JANUARY BETWEEN VOGEL

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